

STAA Awards

- Promote and recognize scientific and technological achievement by EPA employees.
- STAA is the most prestigious of EPA's scientific award programs.

WHAT IS STAA?

- Agency-wide competition sponsored by ORD.
- Recognizes outstanding scientific and technological publications by EPA employees.
- Publications reviewed and evaluated by EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB).
- SAB panel produces recommendations that ORD uses to select the actual awards.

Value of STAA

- Makes the general public more aware of the quality and depth of EPA science.
- Improves the credibility of the science underpinning Agency decisions on important issues.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

- Published in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Initiates or revises a scientific principle or procedure.
- Recognized as a major achievement within its field of study.
- EPA-wide so only EPA employees are eligible.
- All aspects of EPA science are eligible
 - Health and Ecological Effects
 - Environmental Exposure
 - Risk Assessment
 - Risk Management

HOW DOES STAA WORK?

- Four award levels:
 - Level I: \$5,000, Congratulatory Plaque, Letter of Appreciation, and Certificate
 - Level II: \$2,500, Letter, and Certificate
 - Level III: \$1,000, Letter, and Certificate
 - Honorable Mention: Letter and Certificate
- Monetary awards are distributed according to each author's contribution to the total effort.
- Very competitive!!!

STAA Statistics

YEAR	APPLICA- TIONS RECEIVED	LEVEL I (%)	LEVEL II (%)	LEVEL III (%)	HONORABLE MENTION (%)
2004	146	6 (4%)	13 (9%)	32 (22%)	37 (25%)
2003	136	7 (5%)	18 (13%)	29 (21%)	33 (24%)
2001/2002	140	4 (3%)	7 (5%)	26 (19%)	39 (28%)
AVERAGE	141	6 (4%)	13 (9%)	29 (21%)	36 (26%)

- Less than 5% of the submitted papers receive a Level I award being honored today
- Fewer than 10% receive a Level II award

WHO GOT THE 2005 AWARDS?

- Not restricted to ORD -- any paper is eligible.
- This year's Level I awards
 - Two are exclusively authored by Program Offices
 - OW and OECA
 - Two exclusively from ORD Laboratories and Centers
 - One includes an OW co-author,
 - One includes a co-author now employed by the State of Maine.
- Cross-section of EPA science:
 - Supporting regulatory decisions
 - Investigating health effects of arsenic and lead
 - Studying the ecological effects of ozone on trees and the function of isolated wetlands

OTHER MEASURES OF QUALITY AND RELEVANCY

- EPA Science Achievement Awards
 - Provides a means of special recognition for employees who have excelled in scientific and technical disciplines.
 - Given in conjunction with the appropriate professional society or association in scientific or technical areas related to the broad field of environmental protection.
 - This year, SAA awards went to scientists and engineers from Regions 4 and 9, OAR, OPPTS, and ORD.

Professional Society Recognition

Examples

- Dr. Robert Zucker (NHEERL) has been elected as Secretary of the International Society of Analytical Cytology (ISAC)
- Michael Dellarco (NCEA) is President-elect of International Society of Exposure Analysis (ISEA).
- John C. Lipscomb (NCEA) received the Human Risk Assessment Paper of Year 2004 from the Editorial Board of the Journal of Human and Ecological Risk Assessment.

Professional Society Recognition

Examples

- Kevin M. Crofton (NHEERL) received the AstraZeneca Traveling Lectureship Award
 - Recognizing leadership in developing EPA's program to implement and validate high-throughput in vitro methods and alternative species as first-tier screening methods for developmental neurotoxicity testing.
- Glenn Suter (NCEA) received the prestigious SETAC Founders Award,
 - Given to a person whose outstanding career has made clearly identifiable contributions in the environmental sciences.
- Steve McCutcheon (NERL) received ASCE's 2004 Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award.
 - Steve also serves as ASCE's District 14 Director, representing Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana

Post-Doctoral Recognition

- The Scientist recently published a list of the top 15 places for post-doctoral fellows to work.
- EPA's campus in RTP, North Carolina, was ranked as the top place for post-doctoral fellows to work in the country.
- EPA's North Carolina campus currently has a total of 79 postdoctoral employees in the life sciences, engineering and other disciplines.

Bibliometric Analysis - Particulate Matter Review

- **> 1/3 of EPA PM publications are highly cited.**
 - 321 (35.5%) are in the top 10% of highly cited publications
 - 74 (8.2%) are in the top 1%.
 - 13 (1.4%) are in the top 0.1%
 - 2 meet the top 0.01% threshold.
- **Papers more highly cited than average.**
 - Ratio of actual to expected cites is greater than 1.
- **Nearly 1/3 in very high impact journals (JCR Impact Factor)**
- **23 (2.5%) qualify as hot papers (ESI benchmark)**
- **Author self-citation rate is below average.**

904 intramural and extramural papers, published from 1998 to 2005, were cited 9,578 times in the journals covered by Thomson's Web of Science. Of these 904 papers, 723 (80%) have been cited at least once in a journal. The analysis was completed using Thomson's Essential Science Indicators (ESI) and Journal Citation Reports (JCR) as benchmarks.

THANK YOU